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DRAFT PAPERS FOR DELIVERY DIRECTLY

TO : Primary Examiner Aristotelis Psitos
FAX NO. : (703) 308-6606 GROUP A.U.: 2653
FROM : Paul Teng OUR DOCKET NO. : 2271/57219-A
DATE : April 15, 2003
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 5

* IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO (212) 278-0400.

MESSAGE

In connection with Serial No. 09/406,570, a draft set of proposed claim amendments (independent claims 1, 8, 13 and 18).

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Proposed Claim Amendments -- DRAFT

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1. (proposed to be thrice amended) An optical information recording medium comprising information tracks extending in a circumferential direction and spaced from each other in a radial direction by lands, wherein:

a first information track and a second information track are radially adjacent but are radially spaced from each other by a single land;

a first phase pit encoding information for the first information track is connected to the second information track and extends radially therefrom toward, but does not reach, the first information track;

said first phase pit and said first information track being separated radially by a partition wall; [and]

said first phase pit and said first information track having equal depths,

push pull { wherein a track pitch of said first information track and a width and a length of said first phase pit are selected according to a condition that a differential signal is used for reproduction. } *to enable push pull* ?

8. (proposed to be thrice amended) An optical information recording medium comprising:

circumferentially extending grooves forming information tracks and phase pits forming circumferentially extending

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preformat tracks;
a partition wall radially separating adjacent information tracks;
wherein said grooves and phase pits are equally deep, [; and]
phase pits encoding preformat information for a given information
track are radially spaced from the groove forming the given
information track by a partition wall, and
a track pitch of said given information track and a width and a
length of said phase pits are selected according to a
condition that a differential signal is used for
reproduction.

13. (proposed to be twice amended) An optical information
recording medium comprising:

circumferentially extending grooves forming information recording
tracks, and phase pits encoding preformat information for
said tracks;

wherein phase pits encoding preformat information for a given
track are radially spaced from that track and separated
therefrom by a partition wall and are connected to an
adjacent track, [; and

wherein] said grooves and phase pits are equally deep, and
a track pitch of said given track and a width and a length of
said phase pits are selected according to a condition that
a differential signal is used for reproduction.

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18. (proposed to be twice amended) A method of mastering an optical information recording medium comprising information tracks extending in a circumferential direction and spaced from each other in a radial direction by lands, comprising:

exposing a master to a first exposing light beam for forming a first information track and a second information track that are radially adjacent but are radially spaced from each other by a single land;

exposing said master to a second exposing light beam for forming a first phase pit encoding information for the first information track, said first phase pit being connected to the second information track and extending radially therefrom toward, but not reaching, the first information track, said first phase pit and said first information track being separated radially by a partition wall, and said first phase pit and said first information track having equal depths;

wherein, when a spot diameter of said first exposing light beam is $BD1$, a spot diameter of said second exposing light beam is $BD2$, a distance between said first and second exposing light beams is L , and the width of said partition wall in the radial direction is Δ , the values of $BD1$, $BD2$, L , and Δ satisfy the relationship:

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$$\Delta = L - [(BD1/2) + (BD2/2)]; \text{ and}$$

wherein a track pitch of said first information track and a width
and a length of said first phase pit are selected according
to a condition that a differential signal is used for
reproduction.